

for further prosecution in this application. Accordingly, claims 46 and 47 been provisionally canceled.

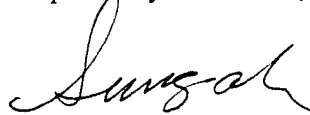
Restriction requirement is appropriate in accordance with the first sentence of 35 U.S.C. § 121, only if the groups of claims are both "independent and distinct." In the present case, the embodiments illustrated in Figures 22 and 24-26 are inter-related and not "independent and distinct," and therefore it is respectfully submitted that the restriction was inappropriate. For example, independent apparatus claim 1 and independent method claim 22 are generic claims that cover the embodiment illustrated in Figures 22 and 24-26. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement be withdrawn at least for the embodiments illustrated in Figures 22 and 24-26.

IV Conclusion

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned representative at (213) 689-5176 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

**The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefore.**

Respectfully submitted,



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